

# Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

## Guidance Note

### Motorcycle/Scooter & Moped Security



SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY



**NORFOLK**  
CONSTABULARY  
*Our Priority is You*

#### Steps to Keep your Machine Safe & Secure

By adopting the following practices as part of **your own two wheeled security assessment**, you will be in control of what happens to your machine when you leave it. Importantly, the **more security measures and precautions you include**, the less attractive your machine will be to thieves.

- 1 An unsecured motorcycle, scooter or moped is an easy target for thieves as it is relatively lightweight and can be wheeled away and lifted into a waiting vehicle. By adopting good practice and adding approved security devices, you could prevent loss and possibly reduce your insurance premiums.
- 2 **Locks** or other security devices are effective measures to secure your machine and act as a deterrent to an opportunist thief. They indicate to a potential thief that the machine is going to be difficult and time consuming to steal. This is often enough to put them off. Locking your machine securely and following other security steps may seem inconvenient but it's nothing compared to the stress and cost of having it stolen.
- 3 Perhaps the simplest and most visible deterrent is an appropriate motorcycle **chain/cable** and lock. Get the best quality you can afford

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and, wherever possible, **choose a Police Approved 'Sold Secure' gold** standard product. When using these make sure you secure your machine to an immovable object such as security loops or bars to make it more difficult to remove. Always try to thread the chain or cable through the frame if possible to prevent your machine being stolen for parts. Threading the chain through a wheel will not prevent the rest of the machine from being stolen.

- 4 Motorcycle **disc locks** are a deterrent, but they will only slow down a professional by a few seconds. If your machine isn't heavy or large, professional thieves will often simply lift it into a van and drive away unhindered by any lock attached to it. You should **never rely on these alone**. Many riders will own a disk lock and chain as well as have an alarm. Some chains and cables come fitted with an integral alarm device which activates should an attack take place. However, get the best quality you can afford and again, wherever possible, **choose Police Approved 'Sold Secure' gold** standard products.
- 5 A quality **alarm system** fitted by a trained technician will not only put off determined thieves but could also reduce your insurance premiums. The complex electrics on modern machines can often respond badly to a DIY or poorly fitted security alarm. Immobilisers will also deter and prevent the easy removal of your machine.
- 6 A covert Thatcham approved 'Tracking' device should be fitted professionally by trained installers in order that your machine can be traced, if it is stolen, using the tracking signal. This type of device is hidden and not publicised so that thieves won't try to remove it. It will probably reduce insurance premiums and significantly help the Police locate your machine.
- 7 **Mark** parts of your machine with your VIN (vehicle identification number), vehicle registration and postcode. It is estimated that one-in-five stolen bikes can't find their way home because their origin cannot be traced. Marking all accessible parts makes it more difficult to sell on so mark as many as you can. Marking can be done simply by using a security marking pen or a forensic security marking kit such as SelectaDNA motorcycle kit. Security marking will make your machine less

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desirable to steal and more difficult to sell on. **Choose Police 'Secured by Design' Approved Forensic marking products.**

- 8 If you have a **garage**, make sure you use it. Many thefts occur from the owner's home when they get complacent and leave their machine outside overnight. Always put it in the garage as soon as you arrive home and make sure your garage is properly secured. An insecure garage may actually help thieves by giving them cover in which to work. If you can, fix a **ground anchor** in the garage and lock your machine to it but also remember to alarm it. Try and make it as difficult as possible for thieves to steal it. Again, wherever possible, **choose Police Approved 'Sold Secure' gold** standard products.
  
- 9 Even the strongest motorcycle locks and the most sophisticated alarms will be ineffective if you park your machine out of sight and give the thief time to disable it. Always park your machine where it can be seen, day or night, by passers-by. Try to adopt the following good practice:
  - *Leave your machine in locations which benefit from high footfall*
  - *Park where there is good lighting so that your machine can be readily seen by you and other passers-by*
  - *Park close to store fronts where people will provide a high degree of natural surveillance*
  - *Park near to 24/7 monitored Town Centre CCTV masts to benefit from formal surveillance cover*
  - *Park within 'Park Mark' police approved car parks to benefit from enhanced security protection and patrols and these are areas which provide recognised security protection for users of those car parks.*

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. Use it as an action plan. Crime can't be totally eliminated but by following these simple guidelines you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

**Always report loss or suspicious behaviour to the Police. Call 999 in an Emergency or where crime is in progress. Call 101 in non-emergency situations.**

Be vigilant as thieves look out riders who do not adopt the above practices.

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If you have information regarding the theft of such machines or other crimes call **Crimestoppers anonymously** on **0800 555 111**.

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